UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/596,931	06/29/2006	Aweke Negash Lemma	NL040091	2451

24737   7590   03/23/2009
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS
P.O. BOX 3001
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER
ZIA, SYED

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2431	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
03/23/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS,
WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>29 June 2006</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-17</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-17</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09/07</u>.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to application filed June 29, 2006. Claims 1-17 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Venkatesan. (U. S. Patent 7,095,873)

1.   Regarding Claim 1, Venkatesan teach and describe a method of bit stream processing in a tandem coding system, the method including steps of: (a) arranging for the system to comprise a series of stages including first quantizing means for processing an input signal to generate an intermediate signal, and second quantizing means for processing the intermediate signal to generate a processed output signal; (b) arranging for the first quantizing means to include means for predicting distortions arising in

subsequent stages of the system and generating one or more corresponding quantization

noise reduction parameters; and (c) applying said one or more noise reduction parameters

in at least one of the subsequent stages for reducing noise and/or distortion arising within

the system (Fig.3-8, and col.7 line 45 to col.10 line 32).

2.   Regarding Claim 16, Venkatesan teach and describe a system for executing bit

stream processing in tandem coding, wherein the system comprises a series of stages

including first quantizing means for processing an input signal to generate an

intermediate signal, and second quantizing means for processing the intermediate signal

to generate a processed output signal, and wherein the first quantizing means is arranged

to include means for predicting distortions arising in subsequent stages of the system and

generating one or more corresponding quantization noise reduction parameters, and

wherein the system is operable to apply the one or more reduction parameters in at least

one of the subsequent stages for reducing noise and/or distortion arising therein (Fig.3-8,

and col.7 line 45 to col.10 line 32).

3.   Claims 2-11 and 17 are rejected applied as above rejecting Claims 1, and 16.

Furthermore, Venkatesan teach and describe method for executing bit stream processing

in tandem coding, wherein,

        As per Claim 2, said one or more noise reduction parameters are derived using a

cost function applicable to determine when overall quantization noise is minimized (col.8

line 2 to line 59).

As per Claim 3, the system includes combining means arranged to embed a watermarking signal into the intermediate signal so that the processed output signal is a watermarked output signal (col.14 line 57 to col.62 line 25).

As per Claim 4, further comprising a step of arranging for the first quantizing means to derive one or more parameters for controlling the combining means for reducing quantization noise arising thereat in operation (col.9 line 45 to col.10 line 3).

As per Claim 5, the one or more parameters are derived using a cost function applicable to determine when overall quantization noise is minimized (col.11 line 33 to col.14 line 55).

As per Claim 6, the combining means is arranged to at least partially decode the first intermediate signal and then embed the watermarking signal therein (col.14 line 56 to col. 16 line 17).

As per Claim 7, at least one of said one or more noise reduction parameters corresponds to a transcoding quantization error determined from a difference between: (a) quantization noise arising in the second quantizing means; and (b) a difference in quantization noise generated by a tandem combination of the first and second quantizing means (col.11 line 33 to col.14 line 55).

As per Claim 8, at least one of the first and second quantizing means is arranged to including logarithmic signal quantizing means (col.11 line 33 to col.14 line 55).

As per Claim 9, the first quantizing means is arranged to operate at a higher bit rate than the second quantizing means (col.16 line 59 to col.17 line 34).

As per Claim 10, at least one of the first and second quantizing means are arranged in operation to have quantizing characteristics which are dynamically

changeable in response to the nature of the input signal to the first quantizing means

(col.11 line 33 to col.14 line 55).

As per Claim 11, at least one of the first and second quantizing means is replaced

with a multimedia signal encoding unit (col.5 line 45 to col.5 line 50).

As per Claim 12, said multimedia signal is an audio signal and said encoding unit

is an audio encoder (col.8 line 60 to line 65).

As per Claim 13, said multimedia signal is a video signal and said encoding unit

is a video encoder (col.8 line 2 to line 65).

As per Claim 14, the input signal and the output signal are of mutually different

format (col.5 line 45 to col.6 line 32).

As per Claim 15, the system is operable to convert between MP3 and AAC signal

formats and vice-versa (col.5 line 45 to col.6 line 32).

As per Claim 17, including combining means for embedding a watermarking

signal into the intermediate signal so that the processed output signal is a watermarked

output signal (col.14 line 57 to col.62 line 25).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SYED ZIA whose telephone number is (571)272-3798. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

sz
March 14, 2009
/Syed   Zia/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2431